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# SANITARY LEGISLATION.

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## STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

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### CALIFORNIA.

#### Plague—Destruction of Rodents, Insects, and Other Vermin. (Res. Bd. of H., Aug. 20, 1913.)

Whereas there has been found within the territory comprised in the counties of Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin, of the State of California, a total of 1,843 ground squirrels (*Citellus beecheyi*) which have been proven by laboratory investigation to have been infected with a contagious and infectious disease, to wit, bubonic plague; and

Whereas an act of the Legislature of the State of California, approved June 7, 1913, provides: "Whenever any land, place, building, structure, wharf, pier, dock, vessel or water craft is infected with rodents, insects, or other vermin which are liable to convey or spread contagious or infectious disease from an existing focus declared by the State board of health, it shall be the duty of said board to at once notify the person, firm, copartnership, company or corporation, owning said land, place, building, structure, wharf, pier, dock, vessel, or water craft of the existence of said rodents, insects, or other vermin and said notice shall direct said owner to proceed immediately to exterminate and destroy said rodents, insects or other vermin, and to continue in good faith such measures as may be necessary to prevent their return. In the event that said owner fails, refuses, or neglects to proceed as above provided, within 10 days from date of receipt of said notice, the State board of health may at once proceed to exterminate and destroy said rodents, insects, or other vermin, and take such measures as may be necessary to prevent their return, and the cost of the above measures shall be repaid the State board of health by the board of supervisors or other governing body of the county, city and county, city, or town wherein the work is done at its next meeting after the bill is presented, and the appropriation provided in section 1 of this act shall be reimbursed by the amount so paid, and may be again expended in a similar manner:" Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the territory comprised within the aforesaid counties is hereby declared to be an existing focus of contagious and infectious disease; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the secretary of this board be directed to notify the supervisors of the above-named counties of the passage of this resolution, and of the intention of the State board of health to proceed in accordance with the provisions of the act of the State legislature, approved June 7, 1913.

#### Rabies—Control of—Quarantine of Animals. (Reg. Bd. of H., Oct. 4, 1913.)

RULE 1. Any person owning, or having the charge of, or observing, any animal which he shall know or suspect to be affected with rabies shall immediately confine such animal, if this can be brought about with reasonable safety, and shall at once

give notice to the local health authority of the whereabouts of such animal and the reasons for believing it to be affected with rabies.

**RULE 2.** Every local health authority upon receiving information of the existence of rabies must immediately make an investigation and within 24 hours thereafter must report fully in writing to the State board of health, except as provided in rule 4.

**RULE 3.** Animals confined under suspicion of having rabies shall be kept under proper care and observation and shall not be killed or released until 10 days shall have elapsed, dating from the beginning of the confinement. If the animal dies or has been killed under suspicion of having rabies, its head shall be sent to the State or municipal laboratory for examination.

**RULE 4.** When the State board of health shall declare a quarantine against certain designated animals within a specified area, on account of the existence of rabies, all such animals within such area shall be kept in strict confinement upon the private premises of the owners under restraint by leash or closed cage or paddock. In areas already under quarantine, or special regulations substituted for quarantine (chap. 369, sec. 2, statutes of 1913<sup>1</sup>), the provisions of rule 3 may be abridged or modified at the discretion of the local health authority and the reports required in rule 2 may be made monthly, unless the State board of health shall specify to the contrary.

**RULE 5.** If the State board of health, after the establishment of quarantine, substitutes for rule 4 such regulations as may be deemed adequate (sec. 2, chap. 369, statutes of 1913<sup>1</sup>), failure to enforce such substitute regulations strictly will be followed by a return to the enforcement of the full regulations of quarantine (see rule 4) or such changes in the regulations as may be deemed advisable by the State board of health.

**RULE 6.** When established, the quarantine period inclusive of the time during which regulations may be substituted for quarantine must cover a continuous period of six months before the State board of health will consider release from quarantine or from the substituted regulations.

**RULE 7.** When an area has been declared by the State board of health to be under quarantine, or regulations substituted for quarantine, on account of rabies, no dog shall be taken or allowed to go into or out of such area, except upon presentation of a written permit from the secretary of the State board of health, or a representative authorized by the State board of health to issue permits under certain conditions prescribed by the board.

**RULE 8.** It is the duty of all peace officers and local health authorities to enforce the requirements of the quarantine or regulations declared by the State board of health. (See secs. 3, 4, and 5, chap. 369, statutes of 1913.)<sup>1</sup>

**RULE 9.** During such time as the quarantine, declared by the State board of health or the regulations substituted by the board, shall be in force in an area, each treasurer of a county, city and county, or incorporated city or town, situated in whole or in part in the area specified, will be expected to make a monthly report to the State board of health, stating the methods and amounts of the collections and disbursement of the moneys of the rabies treatment and eradication fund, and the total amount of money on hand in the fund. (See secs. 6 and 7, chap. 369, statutes of 1913,<sup>1</sup> regarding the establishment of the fund.)

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health Reports, Nov. 7, 1913, p. 2385.